

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Public Safety Subcommittee

Monday, July 9, 2007

2:00 P.M.

Third Floor, City Hall

Present:

Chairman: CM Downard

Vice Chair: CM Green

Members: CM Kramer, CM Welch, and CM Ward-Pugh

Special Items for Discussion: Metro Animal Control Ordinance

Chairman Downard announced the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Matthew Duffy, Duffy's Dog Training LLC, spoke stating he has been a certified dog trainer since March 1980. He handles an average of 8 dogs a day every working week. He has trained over 12,000 and roughly 25 percent could be described as aggressive. Mr. Duffy has received specialized instruction in the areas of problem behavior solving, aggression control, and utility training. He has worked with behavior modification, Police dogs, and Jewish Hospital therapy assistance dogs. Mr. Duffy gave the Committee Members a handout. ([Attached](#)) The following was discussed:

- not a practice to record if altered or not can only guess about 75%
- receive substantial number of referrals from vets on aggressive dogs
- adjust dogs reaction to stimuli
- works within individuals limitations
- environmental conditions may need to be modified
- What works for one dog may not work for another – managed an unique personality
- Must give a dog sufficient motivation to modify his behavior
- Praise from handler
- Spaying and neutering dogs has no effect on training described
- If a dog cannot be trained he would suggest euthanasia over spaying/neutering
- With proper training and care, aggressive dogs can become a socially acceptable member of the human family
- Three simple responsibilities
 - Primary handler supervision
 - Appropriate equipment
 - Secure confinement of animal when not supervised
- Leash and collar method
- Ivan Pavlov's Method
- Sequence of events
 - Approaching stranger then aggression then satisfaction
 - Approaching stranger then forced self control then aggression then satisfaction
 - Approaching stranger then forced self control then satisfaction
 - Approaching stranger then self control the satisfaction
- Dogs need praise from the handler
- Dangerous Dog - Uncontrolled dog that is injurious to others without provocation
- Potentially Dangerous Dog - Likely Uncontrolled dog that is injurious to others without provocation
- No clear guideline
- Some special cases you will have to go to the home to see the dog in his own environment
- Has not seen any programs to fix the pet population
- Most effective means is proper containment and leash requirements to control aggression and control pet population
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- Reduce the aggression in dogs with out training

- Would take a very long time, and would not eliminate the aggression but would reduce the behavior
- Remove from stimuli and triggers for a long period of time.
- No quick fix
- Drug therapy is not the answer
- Success with training is in excess of 9 out of 10.
- Alpha Dog Term is much overused – not that many true Alpha dogs
 - Even though you work with him and show him you are in control, he won't listen
- Does not keep record of altered status because it does not matter in his training
- Inconsiderate neighbors
- Proper and adequate fencing
- Different kinds of aggression – can tell by the stimulants
 - Possessive
 - Territorial
 - Disturbance - Grumpy
 - Defensive

Mr. Duffy stated he does not think breed specific ordinances or alteration ordinances are good. Owners and the conditions the dog is under is the cause of most problems. Proper supervision is very important and effective fines and compensations levied against the dog owner are needed.

AGENDA

[O-121-05-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 91.072 OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES \("CODE"\) PERTAINING TO THE QUARANTINE OF ANIMALS.](#)

Status: In Committee - Tabled
Committee: Public Safety
Primary Sponsor: Glen Stuckel

Discussion: This item remained **Tabled**.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA - VIEW ONLY

Motion to Adjourn was made by Vicki Welch and seconded by Tina Ward-Pugh.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

KQG